

7 October 1977

STAT NOTE FOR:

FROM :

SUBJECT : SIGMA DELTA CHI, Thursday, 13 October, 1900-2100, Auditorium/Rendezvous Room

Attached is the first list of names I have received from Hank Wieland, Executive Secretary of SIGMA DELTA CHI. He is sending me another list in today's mail of extra people. I should have this on Tuesday. He will phone any last minute names to me before Thursday and I will give them to you as soon as I get them.

These people will be coming in individual cars and carpools. Will you arrange to get them in and get them parked.

Hank assures me that all the people on this list are US citizens. You will see that I have put a social security number by Ranjit DeSilva. He has apparently just received his US citizenship. Mr. Green from Reuters is a US citizen also.

STAT Hank wants to check these people off on his own list and receive payment from those who have not yet paid. I am going to put him in the entrance to the auditorium proper so he can check the people off after they have gone through the receptionists. I will ask [] to make an announcement when he introduces our welcoming speaker to the effect that the unpaid guests can see Hank in the Rendezvous Room and pay him.

A second idea for Hank to check his list is for the receptionist to check off the attendees on an extra list I will provide her and then I can just give that list to Hank as we leave the auditorium. I think this is probably the better idea and I have a call in to Hank to o.k. with him.

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

9 March 1978

Around and About...

By ELMER M. JACKSON JR.



The CIA and morality in public office

The need for a Central Intelligence Agency that has its ear to the ground in foreign countries and knows how to interpret what is heard, is vital to the security of our great nation.

At the recent Maryland, Delaware and D.C. Press Ass'n. conclave in Baltimore, when my son Allen became president of the group, we heard four CIA men, in the know, speak. I have never lost faith in the CIA and its important role in our country's security, and after listening to these men on a panel sponsored by the Sigma Delta Chi, fraternity of professional journalists, I am more convinced than ever that this vital agency should not be shackled by the activities of publicity hungry congressmen and newsmen. In the age in which we live, the news media, it seems to me devotes little space to important things while looking behind bushes and even then, often misinterpreting what they see or hear there.

Dr. Ray E. Hiebert, dean of the Dept. of Journalism at the University of Maryland, as president of Sigma Delta Chi, presided at the forum entitled "The CIA and the Press." This outstanding session was a highlight of the press ass'n. meeting which found such notables as Acting Gov. Blair Lee, III; a panel of legislators who explained how the legislature works; and Assistant to President Jimmy, Carter, Richard Pettigrew, on the program. Lee, whom this writer succeeded as president of the MDCC press ass'n., spent more than seven hours with his former associates and was keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet.

A blind giant

John Maury, a retired CIA agent who served his country in many foreign countries, said a restricted CIA makes the U.S. vulnerable to its enemies who have no restrictions on their operations. "Right now," he said, "the CIA is a blind giant wandering around in a mine field."

Of the present ban on newsmen serving the CIA, Maury said, such restrictions are necessary because "we already have sufficient laws on the subject. Besides, journalists shouldn't need any more legal protection than other citizens".

A journalist's views

Joseph Fromm, deputy editor of the prestigious magazine, U.S. News and World Report, expressed pride over his work with the CIA in overseas jobs. He said, "we live in a mean world. Intelligence cannot function efficiently with too much openness. The CIA actually should not be seen or heard." Fromm told of instances where Russians tried to leak phony information to him. He said he had to be informed by his own country not to have been misled.

"The news media in downgrading the CIA has badly hurt its own credibility," Fromm declared. He went on to say there has been no instance where an American journalist working for the CIA ever violated his obligation to his publisher or to the public. He scored some Washington Post and N.Y. Times reporting about the CIA. And, he expressed scorn for former CIA agents who, failing to get desired promotions, became witnesses against it.

CIA paid him

Fromm was never paid by the CIA but David A. Phillips a former journalist and CIA agent, said he was paid \$50 a month for his help to the CIA, and later became a full time agent for it. He held that CIA downgrading has been too emotional and that circumstances were not given their proper importance by reporters. He held that an honorable journalist always tells the truth and said some remarks about the CIA were ridiculous and against the best interests of the U.S.

Dennis Berend, a deputy with the present CIA, was cautious in his remarks it seemed to me, but summed up, it appeared he said that if the truth were known the CIA would need no defense in this country. He held our enemies have benefited by new restrictions on the CIA, while foreign countries step up their own intelligence sleuthing in the U.S. Those who heard the four panelists would have to be convinced that the U.S. some times is its own worst enemy.

Corruption in politics

Most dynamic and outspoken speaker of the press convention was Nicholas von Hoffman, nationally syndicated columnist and former writer for The Washington Post.

Hoffman contended that anyone in public office, regardless of the level, must deal in politics. He contended that citizens and others who deal with these politicians are in politics, too. He said politicians have to be opportunists in order to get elected.

Those in politics, or who deal with them are aware, he said, that power talks to power.

Common cause slapped

The speaker scored Common Cause saying it is a propaganda group, spreading its own propaganda to attempt to bring about change. He said the group believes its own propaganda but that it does not look ahead to problems its demands will create.

Citizen disapproval

President Carter has a deep inferiority complex, Hoffman said, and his administration is in trouble. He said Carter ought to know that Americans love their country but despise their government, and that people in high places ought to learn through study of history what to expect from the public. He said if Carter stops depreciation of the U.S. it will be at the expense of citizens here at home.

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